

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

As a citizen, I want to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life. Yet, network television, using public airwaves, lacks programming to promote knowledge of this most democratic of all rights: the vote.

Public affairs programming is virtually non-existent, and instead we are barraged with stories of dubious local importance.

Part of the job of the FCC is to define requirements for broadcasters. I ask that you fulfill this role by requiring some part of broadcasting to serve the public interest, with programming that covers local civic and electoral affairs. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

When reading of accounts of citizens living in other parts of the world, always what is mentioned is that the nature of our media is important as one part of the definition of well-functioning democracy. Having access to a diversity of opinions on the choices confronting us is important to this process.

Sincerely,

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